

From: [Sherry Reilly](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Alexandria Hensley Fields Improvement Program and Adding Synthetic Turf to the Upper Diamond
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:29:57 PM

I am writing to address the City of Alexandria Parks and Recreation Commission's consideration of the 2014 Capital Improvement Plan in regards to Hensley Park.

Alexandria Little League (ALL) is the primary baseball league in Alexandria. Our league serves approximately 500 Alexandria City families and residents. ALL provides two primary seasons - Spring and Fall baseball, as well as summer camps and other clinics throughout the year.

ALL is the biggest user of the diamond fields in the City and we have a good track record of working with the RPCA staff in helping to improve our baseball and softball facilities. Most recently we have been the recipient of two Partnership awards to improve Ben Brenman and Luckett Fields. ALL is grateful to partner with the City.

ALL is writing to endorse the RPCA Staff's recommendations at Hensley Fields, with one key change. We would like the city to include synthetic turf on the upper diamond field at the park. ALL specifically supports keeping two diamond fields at Hensley and we support creating multi-use fields that have synthetic turf, including the rectangular field at Hensley.

Currently all of Alexandria's Baseball Facilities are natural turf. This means, after inclement weather, our baseball facilities are routinely closed in order to protect the field's surface.

Inclement weather has had significant impacts on our athletes and their families. Some seasons we've had to cancel or reschedule 30 or 40% of games and practices due to rained-out fields. For example, this fall, we had free clinics planned throughout the city each Sunday to try to reach our underserved communities of athletes, particularly in the West End. We had to cancel 2 out of 5 of them (after rescheduling twice so really 4 out of 7) based on field closures due to weather. The days of the clinics were actually sunny days but the rainy weather in the preceding days caused the city to have to keep the fields closed.

Additionally, weather cancellations can create much confusion for our players, families, and coaches who plan their weekends around our league's schedule. The rescheduling of practices and games also creates greater impacts for players and coaches who are not available for the scheduling of makeups.

Weather has a significant disproportionate impact on baseball programming, amongst sports offered in our city, because we lack all-weather fields with synthetic turf. ALL believes having synthetic-turf diamond fields in Alexandria would preserve Alexandria's baseball communities ability to continue to play baseball for a greater percentage of each season. Making for a much-improved experience for Alexandria's players, coaches, and the hundreds of volunteers who run our league. We do not need to convert all of our facilities - just enough to be able to keep our league's schedule from being severely impacted.

The sports in the City that use rectangular fields have the option to play in, or after, inclement weather due to the numerous synthetic fields at their disposal. We believe it would be a wise choice to add a few diamond synthetic-turf fields as soon as practical to achieve a proper balance across all sports. ALL is also willing to partner with the City to help fund this effort.

Thank you for your attention to this and please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of additional help on this matter.

Sherry Reilly, President, Alexandria Little League

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From: [Katie Campbell](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanza](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]comments on Joseph Hensley Park development plan
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:18:14 PM

Good afternoon,

I am writing about the proposed changes to the Joseph Hensley Park development plan and encourage you to consider the needs of Alexandria Soccer, Alexandria Baseball, Alexandria Lacrosse and many other youth and adult community stakeholders.

My children are very engaged in youth sports and we have seen overcrowding at Alexandria fields. They often have not lights and poor grass conditions. Our growing youth sports programs need additional infrastructure.

Futsal is a growing sport and I encourage you to include both indoor and outdoor courts in your development plans. As you work on this project and others, I encourage you to install multi-purpose fields that can be used for multiple sports.

Katie

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From: [LaValle](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanza](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Hensley Feedback
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 3:29:04 PM
Attachments: [2021 Hensley modification proposal from ASA.pdf](#)

Ana-

I'm writing you on behalf of the ASA community. We really want to make sure the Hensley plan incorporates the growing demands of all user groups within the City. We do feel the current plan falls a bit short and we are hopeful that our feedback will be considered before moving forward. Hensley really does provide an opportunity to maximize usage for the future demands if constructed properly; unlike many other sites that have various restrictions. Below I have copied comments and thoughts from our analysis of current plan.

Thanks for your time and consideration

John LaValle ASA Board Chairman

General Feedback:

- Overall the proposed Hensley plan does not meet the most immediate community needs. The community benefit at a unique large park that has lights, will have parking and can accommodate a large number of participants needs to add capacity for a wider range of activities.
- The current proposal would only provide seasonal benefits limited by weather conditions and sport specific layouts
- This plan does not address the need for year round all weather field & court space. Both diamond and rectangular sports do not have enough access especially during weeknights and rain events. How does RPCA staff plan to address this community need if they don't recommend installing a fieldhouse at Hensley? Hensley is one of the few RPCA large parks that can support large scale programming.

Modify the current plan to add benefit:

- Change the surface to all weather turf throughout the entire complex | Costs per hour of usage of installing turf vs. natural grass is 8 times less expensive.
- Change the layout to maximize the amount of square footage for a wide variety of recreational play. Expand the boundaries for each field so areas "out of bounds" are still usable for unstructured and structured play
- Do not limit future adjustments to usage by installing permanent structures such as light poles in the outfield where play areas could be expanded.
- If artificial turf is used for the diamond fields, the community could also gain:
 - an all-season, lighted, rectangular field, suitable for soccer, football, lacrosse and other field sports

And new MAX benefit plan

- Install artificial turf at existing diamond fields ("Little Simpson", "Brenman Softball")
- Install turf and/or lights at existing fields ("Simpson Soccer", Hensley Turf, and Hammond Grass)
- Install Pavillions on courts to meet growing needs for multi-use courts

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From: [Sue Setliff](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanza](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Hensley INPUT - thank you
Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021 9:20:22 AM

Hello, thank you for your work to improve our parks.

ALL fields should be MULTIPURPOSE. No field should be for baseball only or soccer only.

We need to maximize usage and include LIGHTS, even if used during winter only until 8pm.

Thank you for reconsidering the plans to serve MORE people in Alexandria.

Thanks,
Sue Setliff

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From: [Anne G. Terwilliger](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Hensley Park - Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:56:43 PM

Dear Ms. Vicinanzo and Mr. Browand,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the current proposed redesign of Hensley Park. As planned, the proposal does not strategically consider the needs of Alexandria Soccer, Alexandria Baseball and many other community stakeholders. We have two children who participate in Alexandria youth sports and know the value and importance of park space for these activities. Currently, youth sports programs on Alexandria turf fields are packed for programming and pushing upwards of 100-150 participants per field for practices at a time. The Alexandria community's needs for these programs are only increasing and require our infrastructure support. Additionally, opportunities to multi-purpose turf fields for multiple sports should be embraced in all future recreation sports development plans. This has been particularly evident during this pandemic which has pushed all indoor sports outdoors. Without these multi-purpose turf fields, winter sports would have been non-existent. Similarly, futsal courts both outdoor and indoor are similarly in high community need and should be addressed in all future recreation sports development plans. The current Joseph Hensley Park development plan presented by the City doesn't meet any of these needs and should be reworked to support these above action items.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anne Terwilliger
anne.terwilliger@gmail.com
757-812-2810

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From: [JEFF NEWHOUSE](#)
To: [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Hensley Park design
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 9:24:25 PM

Hi Jack,

I'm hoping the discussion tomorrow night can include the consideration of artificial turf for the diamond fields. I understand that current funding does not support this, but infrastructure design during this phase could ease/facilitate future implementation of artificial turf.

Specifically - the lower diamond field could accommodate the overlay of a 50y x 80y rectangular field if light pole, fencing, and tree locations were adjusted slightly.

Best Regards,

Jeff Newhouse

Secretary, Youth Sports Advisory Board

Board Member, Alexandria Soccer Association

Maryland Registered Landscape Architect #1104

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From: [Ryan Drewniak](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Hensley Park Renovation Comments
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 3:42:25 PM

Good afternoon, Ms. Vicinanzo and Mr. Browand,
I humbly submit the following comments to the proposed development of Hensley Park, thank you for your consideration.

- The facility does not provide additional soccer fields to address the issues we have faced with overcrowded fields, fields lacking lighting, and poor grass field conditions. ASA has been growing exponentially, and additional space has not been provided to support the growth.
- Currently Alexandria turf fields are packed for programming and pushing upwards of 100-150 participants per field for practices at a time. The Alexandria community's needs for these programs are increasing and require additional infrastructure support.
- Opportunities to install multi-purpose turf fields for multiple sports should be embraced in all future recreation sports development plans.
- Outdoor and indoor futsal courts are in high community need and should be addressed in all future recreation sports development plans.
- The current Joseph Hensley Park development plan and the broader CIP presented by Alexandria should address/incorporate additional soccer facilities.

Most importantly, ASA has provided such a welcome and appreciated activity during the covid pandemic (in a well planned manner, incorporating the highest degree of safety). It has been a godsend for my family to have soccer fields and activities in which to participate, as it is their only outlet to interact with their friends (in a socially distanced manner). I ask that redevelopment of the park include additional soccer fields to continue to build upon the amazing support ASA has provided to the community of Alexandria during a much needed time.

Very respectfully,
Ryan Drewniak

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From: [Angela DeConti](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanza](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comments on Hensley Park
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:01:40 PM

Dear Alexandria Parks & Rec Commission Leadership,

I am writing to provide comments into the development at Hensley Park. My boys are very active in Alexandria Soccer Association and have been for years. They have played at all of the fields across Alexandria City. Currently, one of my boys plays futsal at William Ramsey Outdoor Courts. The conditions are terrible for playing at night because there are no working overhead lights and only temporary lights. My son equates it to playing in the backyard with the flood lights which I think he finds to be fun but from a safety perspective I have a lot of concerns. At Witter field, multiple teams need to use the facility which makes it very crowded. As a side note for Witter field, I also think that there should be at least a second or third entrance and exit point for safety concerns, especially if the fields need to be evacuated quickly.

With covid canceling school and everything else in my children's life, it's been a lifesaver to be able to still have soccer safely for their well-being. As you finalize the plans for Hensley Park, I strongly encourage the planners to consider ensuring that there will be multi-purpose turf fields, lighted facilities, and plans for indoor and outdoor futsal courts so that everyone can have access. I think the need is only going to go up for these safe places to play.

Sincerely,

Angela M DeConti

Sent from my iPad

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From: [Carbo](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]More tennis courts !! Joseph Hensley Park
Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 9:56:48 AM

Please consider at least two tennis courts at Joseph Hensley Park. And don't forget the porta-john like Fairfax County has at EVERY public tennis court. Carbo.

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From: [Michael Coulter](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Cc: [Jen Coulter](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Input on the development of Hensley Park
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 7:48:32 PM

Hello,

I am writing to respectfully share my views on the development of Hensley Park. In short, I am concerned that the plan does not strategically consider the needs of Alexandria Soccer, Alexandria Baseball, Alexandria Lacrosse and many other youth and adult community stakeholders.

- With three active elementary school children, our family faces overcrowded fields, no lights at fields which limits usability and to poor grass fields.
- HYouth sports programs on Alexandria turf fields are packed for programming and pushing upwards of 100-150 participants per field for practices at a time. The Alexandria community's needs for these programs are only increasing and require our infrastructure support.
- I would hope that the city would look for opportunities to install multi-purpose turf fields for multiple sports in all future recreation sports development plans.
- Futsal courts both outdoor and indoor are similarly in high community need and should be addressed in all future recreation sports development plans.
- The current Joseph Hensley Park development plan and the broader CIP presented by the City should be reworked to support these above action items.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael, Jennifer, Jack, Will and Elle Coulter
(703) 869-1603

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [Patrick McNabb](#)
To: [Jack Browand](#); [Ana Vicinanzo](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Joseph Hensley Park Redevelopment
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 6:58:49 PM

Dear Alexandria City Parks and Rec Department,

I am writing to you this afternoon to let you know about my concerns about the lack of space in our City for Youth Sport activity. It is my hope that your plans for the Hensley field could be modified to support additional activities and youth.

The current situation places youth in overcrowded fields many of which are not lit and have poor grass field conditions. Many of the legacy fields have not taken into account activities / sport that youth participate.

Please take into account that this is an opportunity to install multi-purpose turf fields for multiple sports. Specifically consider updating plans to include indoor/outdoor futsal courts.

Kind regards,

Patrick McNabb
2507 DeWitt Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301

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From: [Beth Milito](#)
To: [Jack Browand](#); [Ana Vicinanzo](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Joseph Hensley Park Redvelopment
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:16:10 PM

Good Afternoon Ms. Vicinanzo and Mr. Browand,

I am writing to express my concern with the current development plan for Joseph Hensley Park. I would ask that the Parks & Rec Commission reconsider the plan and rework it to incorporate additional multi-purpose turf fields. Turf fields could be used for multiple sports and would offer a long-term benefit for the citizens of Alexandria City.

As you are probably aware, for youth outdoor sports demand exceeds available space. Currently there can be over 100 participants per field for practices during peak hours. Alexandria City needs additional multi-purpose turf fields and investment in such fields at Joseph Hensley Park would support the families and youth in the city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

Beth Milito

202-445-9111

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From: [Geoff Kruczek](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Proposed Henseley Park renovations
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 10:28:54 AM

Good morning,

I am an Alexandria Little League board member and am writing to voice my support for the proposed renovations to Henseley Park.

During my years with the league, there have been countless times when even minor rainfall has caused fields to be closed. This, in turn, has caused games and practices to be cancelled, creating scheduling issues for the league and further straining the capacity of the fields. More importantly, however, is that such closures result in missed opportunities for kids to be outdoors, getting quality instruction, interacting with friends and just generally having fun doing something they love.

While I realize this applies only to one field, it is an important starting point to permit a better and more robust experience for the kids involved.

For these reasons, I support the proposed renovations. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

Geoff Kruczek

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From: [Russ Metzler](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment - Hensley Park Development Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:05:17 PM

Ms. Vicinanzo and Mr. Browand,

I would like to include my support for increased turf soccer spaces and futsal court spaces to be included into the current development plan for Hensley Park. I am a 18 year resident of Alexandria and a parent of two students at TC Williams who have played youth sports in Alexandria for almost all of that time,

I appreciate that play space is at a premium in the City, and the redevelopment of Hensley Park is great for all of us. Athletic fields are often packed often with teams from across the City's youth programs including ACPS, private schools, City rec programs, as well as other youth sports programs like ASA. It is not uncommon to show up at Witter and have the TC Williams soccer team, the Bishop Ireton teams, Alexandria Titans football, and ASA soccer teams all competing for space on the same day. The demands are only increasing as more families move to the city and take advantage of all these great programs.

Including additional turf field space at Hendley that can be used by multiple sports is one step in the larger solution to these challenges, and should be included in all development plans going forward. The development of Hensley Park also provides an opportunity for the City to address the shortage of court space in the City, and I urge you to consider adding additional multi-sport court space that could be used for basketball, racquet sports like tennis, as well as futsal.

The current Joseph Hensley Park development plan presented by the City should be reworked to support more multi-sport field and court space to benefit City residents and Youth Sports Participants.

Thank You,

Russ Metzler
russ.metzler@gmail.com
2706 Holly St, Alexandria VA 22305
c. 614-753-0971



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From: [Mike Salerno](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]RPCA renovation plans for Joseph Hensley Park must be reworked to better meet community needs
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 5:07:45 PM

Dear Ms. Vicinanzo and Mr. Browand,

My name is Michael Salerno, and I am a current resident of the City of Alexandria and parent to three school-age children, each of whom participates in youth athletic programs which take place on city-owned facilities including Simpson Park, Witter Park, Ben Brenman, Four Mile Park, and Limerick Field, among others.

I'm writing to comment on the Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities department's 60% design and improvement plan for Joseph Hensley Park in advance of the Park & Recreation Commission's public review hearing on January 21, 2021.

In my observation, the City of Alexandria's turf fields are consistently booked solid and crowded with youth sports programming, with individual practice sessions pushing upwards of 100-150 participants per field. Given the City's ongoing population growth and increasing public awareness of the physical and social-emotional benefits of outdoor team-based athletic activities, demand for youth athletics programming within the City will only continue to rise, requiring commensurate infrastructure development.

As a result, (1) opportunities to introduce multi-purpose turf fields for use by multiple sports should be embraced in all future recreational athletics infrastructure development plans. In addition, (2) demand for futsal courts (both outdoor and indoor) from existing and future expected programming exceeds the existing facilities' capacity and should also be addressed in all future development plans.

In my opinion, the RPCA's proposed plan for Joseph Hensley Park should be reworked to support these above action items (1) and (2).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Salerno
208 W Walnut St.
Alexandria, VA 22301

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From: [DALE MEDEARIS](#)
To: [Jack Browand](#); [Ana Vicinanzo](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Space for ASA Soccer
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:08:11 PM

Dear Jack,

Dear Ana,

As a father of ASA players, I wish to share that:

- Youth sports programs on Alexandria turf fields are packed for programming and pushing upwards of 100-150 participants per field for practices at a time. The Alexandria community's needs for these programs are only increasing and require our infrastructure support.
- Opportunities to create multi-purpose turf fields for multiple sports should be embraced in all future recreation sports development plans.
- Futsal courts both outdoor and indoor are also in high community need and should be addressed in all future recreation sports development plans.
- The current Joseph Hensley Park development plan presented by the City should be reworked to support these above action items.

Thanks for listening!

Sincerely,

Dale Medearis

Father of ASA players

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From: [Jason Kidd](#)
To: [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: Fw: Reworking Hensley Park Development for Field Use
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:31:42 PM

Hi Jack,

I am a resident with three daughters in ACPS schools and local sports. I was notified that the redevelopment plans for Hensley Park do not address many of the needs of the community.

I can say that sports have been a tremendous outlet for our girls (certainly this year) but every year and scheduling/field space is a challenge (they play softball, Soccer, Futsal, Field Hockey). My oldest is 17 and last year her Soccer team had to share a Witter Soccer field with 3 other teams which makes for a poor coaching/playing experience. Similarly, Futsal has become huge and two of my girls love playing but we need more indoor/outdoor space.

Alexandria is growing and doesn't have enough fields today so would like to make sure any redevelopment project is addressing needs of the community (specifically figuring out opportunities for more multi-purpose turf fields). The current plan for Hensley Park does not adequately address this and should be reworked to optimize our space.

Please see below and let me know how I can help.

Thank you,

Jason Kidd
703-447-1096

From: [James Wynn](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#); [Bethany Znidersic](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Joseph Hensley Park and amendments - Comments
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:33:49 PM

To whom it may concern,

As an Alexandria resident I am concerned about the amount of outdoor fields and facilities at the upcoming development at Hensley Park (and other potential developments) - specifically concerned that they do not consider the needs of our local nonprofit organizations that serve to make this city livable and wonderful for families.

I'm thinking specifically of the challenges Alexandria Soccer Association, Alexandria Baseball, and Alexandria Lacrosse have faced in having access to fields and facilities with adequate field conditions and lighting. This past fall and winter have made the lack of facilities very apparent to me (both for more formal activities and for "walk on" activities by residents and neighbors).

I support the following comments that I have seen from the local youth organizations:

- My children have participated in activities at the William Ramsay Recreation outdoor courts and the lights do not work which makes winter programming quite difficult. I understand that ASA has hung some temporary lighting but it is quite poor and we should do better as a city, especially to provide quality facilities in all areas of the city.
- In general it is my experience as mentioned above that the fields that we have used in our various activities (Ben Brenman Park, Witter, Jefferson Houston, etc.) are packed due to the successful programming from our local nonprofit organizations; but they are pushing upwards of 100-150 participants per field at practices which is too crowded (even in a non-covid environment). Our community needs these programs to serve our community and they need more dedicated space. Also, there should be more space available so that neighbors and residents outside of those programs can have access to fields for less formal activities and pick up play with their children. This requires a commitment to increasing our inventory and infrastructure support.
- Any opportunity to to install multi-purpose turf fields for multiple sports should be embraced in all future recreation sports development plans.
- Futsal courts both outdoor and indoor are similarly in high community need and should be addressed in all future recreation sports development plans.
- The current Joseph Hensley Park development plan and the broader CIP presented by the City should be reworked to support these above action items.

Thank you for your consideration.

James & Danielle Wynn
721 Carpenter Road
Alexandria, VA 22314

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From: [Stephanie Beyer Kirby](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Cc: [Trey Kirby](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Support for Turf Fields at Hensley Park
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:34:51 PM

Good Afternoon,

My husband and I write to you today in support of the addition of turf fields at Hensley Park.

The current Joseph Hensley Park development plan presented by the City should be reworked to support the below items. I can share first hand the importance of access to fields for all. Exercise and group sports programs have greatly benefited my children (7 and 10) as well as children all over Alexandria.

- Youth sports programs on Alexandria turf fields are packed for programming and pushing upwards of 100-150 participants per field for practices at a time. The Alexandria community's needs for these programs are only increasing and require our infrastructure support.
- Opportunities to multi-purpose turf fields for multiple sports should be embraced in all future recreation sports development plans.
- Futsal courts both outdoor and indoor are similarly in high community need and should be addressed in all future recreation sports development plans.

Thank you so much for your time and attention to this matter.

Stephanie and Trey Kirby

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From: [Lisa Chimento](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#); [Jack Browand](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Hensley Park
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:41:42 PM

I am writing to request consideration of more turf fields and futsal courts in the planning for Hensley Park.

- Youth sports programs on Alexandria turf fields are packed for programming and pushing upwards of 100-150 participants per field for practices at a time. The Alexandria community's needs for these programs are only increasing and require our infrastructure support.
- Opportunities to create multi-purpose turf fields for multiple sports should be embraced in all future recreation sports development plans.
- Futsal courts both outdoor and indoor are also in high community need and should be addressed in all future recreation sports development plans.
- The current Joseph Hensley Park development plan presented by the City should be reworked to support these above action items.

As a longtime resident and parent of a soccer player, I strongly encourage and advocate for these items.

Thank you.

Lisa Chimento
524 Fort Williams Parkway
Alexandria, VA 22304

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From: [Steve Sternberg](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#)
Cc: [Sherry Reilly](#)
Subject: re: Joseph Hensley Park Renovation
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 3:19:00 PM

RE: Alexandria Hensley Fields Improvement Program and Adding Synthetic Turf to the Upper Diamond

Dear Ms. Vicinanzo,

I am writing to address the City of Alexandria Parks and Recreation Commission's consideration of the 2014 Capital Improvement Plan in regards to Hensley Park.

I'm a board member and team manager in Alexandria Little League, which as you know is one of the foundational growth and recreational opportunities for Alexandria young people, a springboard from childhood to adolescence for generations of Alexandria's kids.

At present, Alexandria Little League only has access to natural grass and dirt fields. Our fields routinely close after inclement weather and during the cold weather months, even on days warm enough for kids who are warmly dressed to go outside and play baseball.

Baseball is an especially important outlet during the coronavirus pandemic, because children can maintain their social distance, have fun and get exercise.

The league is very proud of our lasting partnership with RCPA and we are grateful to have been selected to improve fields at Brenman and Luckett. We believe that the City should keep both diamond fields at Hensley per the current plan and prioritize converting two to three diamond fields to synthetic turf. We also believe that the commission should support the effort to convert the upper field to synthetic turf.

We hope that you will follow through on your plan and make the field conversion a priority.

Thank you so much for your consideration,

Steve Sternberg
Member, Alexandria Little League Board of Directors
703-200-6251

From: [Blackwood, Tom \(Content Operations\)](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#)
Subject: RE: Joseph Hensley Park Renovation
Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 10:03:37 AM

That is it, thanks. Glad the city is doing this regardless of what happens. I think the park is underutilized so any upgrades will be positive for the city.

Thomas Blackwood
Thomson Reuters
Cell: 703-548-9160
thomas.blackwood@thomsonreuters.com

From: Ana Vicinanzo <ana.vicinanzo@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 10:02 AM
To: Blackwood, Tom (Content Operations) <thomas.blackwood@thomsonreuters.com>
Subject: RE: Joseph Hensley Park Renovation

Good morning Mr. Blackwood,

Thank you for your feedback. I will pass along your comments to the project managers and Park and Recreation Commission members. We appreciate your input.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Thank you,

Ana

From: Blackwood, Tom (Content Operations) <thomas.blackwood@thomsonreuters.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 9:59 AM
To: Ana Vicinanzo <ana.vicinanzo@alexandriava.gov>
Subject: re: Joseph Hensley Park Renovation

Ms. Vicinanzo,

I am writing in regards to the planned renovation of Hensley Park. I think that the city should investigate the possibility of converting one of the baseball/softball diamonds from natural grass to artificial turf. Whereas the soccer program in the city has numerous artificial turf surfaces to practice and play games on, the baseball program does not have any facilities that would allow practices or games on after significant rain. Having even one field with artificial turf would allow the baseball teams keep playing during rainy periods. I am sure a field could be designed to accommodate both softball and several different baseball dimensions. Since the renovation is being done in phases, planning for an artificial turf field in the later parts of the renovation would allow Alexandria baseball organizations to run fundraising efforts in an effort to share the cost.

Thanks for considering this comment,

Tom Blackwood
801 Ramsey Street
Alexandria, VA 22301

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Cell: 703-548-9160
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Six Steps to Stop the Spread image



From: [Blackwood, Tom \(Content Operations\)](#)
To: [Ana Vicinanzo](#)
Subject: re: Joseph Hensley Park Renovation
Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 9:59:17 AM

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